

Method and Apparatus for Receive Diversity in a Communication System

Field

[1001] The present invention relates generally to the field of communications, and more specifically, to communications using a receive diversity technique.

Background

[1002] The communication channel between a transmitter and a receiver may be time varying and dispersive. The dispersion of the channel may result in multipath propagation of transmitted signal; thus, at a receiving destination, more than one receiver chain may be needed to process the multipath received signals. A receiver chain for signals received at each antenna may be necessary. Therefore, multiple receiver chains may be necessary to exploit the multipath signals received at multiple receive antennas. Use of multiple receiver chains increases the power consumption. A mobile station in a communication system may greatly benefit from receive diversity; however, mobile stations generally have limited battery power supply.

[1003] Performance of mobile stations, in at least one aspect, is measured with respect to the length of time operating without recharging the battery power supply. Various schemes have been used and deployed in various communication systems to improve the battery life of a mobile station without limiting its operational functionalities. For example, in a communication system, a mobile station may periodically shut off and wake up in predefined assigned time periods to monitor a quick paging channel (QPCH). If the QPCH indicates possibility of a message for the mobile station, the mobile station directs its resources to monitor an assigned paging channel, a broadcast common channel or a common control channel. The directed channel may carry a detailed message directing the mobile station to process other channels. The QPCH carries indications of a page directed to the mobile station. The transmission of QPCH may be at a predefined power level to reach as many mobile stations in the coverage area of the transmitter. The QPCH, and other similar channels, therefore, may be transmitted without exploiting a power control scheme. The data in the QPCH may be hashed for two groups of

mobile stations for receiving paging indications at different times. The mobile stations in the first group wake up during one time period to receive a QPCH and the second group at another time period. As a result, the mobile stations may conserve battery power while maintaining full functionalities.

[1004] The QPCH contains a single bit message to direct the mobile stations. If a mobile station detects a “zero”, for example, indicating no message during its assigned time period, the mobile station may go back to sleep until the next assigned time period. If the mobile station detects a “one”, for example, indicating a page, the mobile station assigns its resources to monitor other related channels. Receive diversity is beneficial for decoding the paging indication bit in the QPCH.

[1005] To benefit from the receive diversity, the receiver may have to turn on multiple receiver chains to process multiple received signals. As a result, the receiver may consume a substantial amount of battery power with respect to the amount of data that it is attempting to decode in the QPCH. Therefore, use of receive diversity for decoding QPCH may adversely effect the battery life of the mobile station. Without use of the receive diversity, the mobile station may erroneously decode the QPCH data resulting in inefficient use of the battery power resources.

[1006] To this end as well as others, there is a need for an effective use of receiver diversity for decoding various channels in a communication system.

SUMMARY

[1007] In a communication system for decoding a quick paging channel (QPCH), a receiver determines a channel condition of a pilot channel received at a mobile station. A control system determines receive diversity at a receiver of the mobile station by determining a number of a plurality of receiver chains in the receiver for receive diversity based on the determined channel condition. The receiver determines a first data bit of the QPCH received at the mobile station in accordance with processing of one or more signals produced based on the determined receive diversity. The control system is configured for reducing the number of selected receiver chains when the determined channel condition is above a first channel condition threshold and increasing the number of selected receiver chains when the determined channel condition is below a

second channel condition threshold. The first channel condition threshold corresponds to a stronger channel condition than a channel condition corresponding to the second channel condition threshold. The control system is configured for adjusting a delta threshold corresponding to a difference between the first and second channel condition thresholds based on a mobility level of the receiver in the communication system. The control system is configured for increasing the delta threshold in response to an increasing mobility level and reducing the delta threshold in response to a decreasing mobility level.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[1008] The features, objects, and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent from the detailed description set forth below when taken in conjunction with the drawings in which like reference characters identify correspondingly throughout and wherein:

[1009] FIG. 1 depicts a communication system capable of operating in accordance with various embodiments of the invention;

[1010] FIG. 2 depicts a communication system receiver for receiving and decoding received data at a data rate in accordance with various aspects of the invention;

[1011] FIG. 3 depicts a communication system transmitter for transmitting data packets at a scheduled data rate in accordance with various aspects of the invention;

[1012] FIG. 4 depicts a transceiver system capable of operating in accordance with various embodiments of the invention;

[1013] FIG. 5 illustrates a flow chart for determining scale of receive diversity based on a pilot channel condition in accordance with various embodiments of the invention;

[1014] FIG. 6 illustrates various thresholds used for determining receive diversity in accordance with various embodiments of the invention;

[1015] FIG. 7 illustrates a flow chart for determining data bits of QPCH and the steps for determining receive diversity based on a pilot channel condition in accordance with various embodiments of the invention;

[1016] FIG. 8 illustrates a flow chart for determining data bits of QPCH and the steps for determining receive diversity based on a pilot channel condition in accordance with various embodiments of the invention;

[1017] FIG. 9 illustrates a flow chart for determining data bits of QPCH and the steps for determining receive diversity based on a pilot channel condition in accordance with various embodiments of the invention; and

[1018] FIG. 10 illustrates a flow chart for determining data bits of QPCH and the steps for determining receive diversity based on a pilot channel condition in accordance with various embodiments of the invention.

Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiment(s)

[1019] Various embodiments of the invention may be incorporated in a wireless communication system operating in accordance with the code division multiple access (CDMA) technique which has been disclosed and described in various standards published by the Telecommunication Industry Association (TIA) and other standards organizations. Such standards include the TIA/EIA-95 standard, TIA/EIA-IS-2000 standard, IMT-2000 standard, UMTS and WCDMA standard, all incorporated by reference herein. A system for communication of data is also detailed in the "TIA/EIA/IS-856 cdma2000 High Rate Packet Data Air Interface Specification," incorporated by reference herein. A copy of the standards may be obtained by accessing the world wide web at the address: <http://www.3gpp2.org>, or by writing to TIA, Standards and Technology Department, 2500 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22201, United States of America. The standard generally identified as UMTS standard, incorporated by reference herein, may be obtained by contacting 3GPP Support Office, 650 Route des Lucioles-Sophia Antipolis, Valbonne-France.

[1020] Generally stated, various aspects of the invention provide for efficient use of communication resources in a CDMA communication system. In accordance with at least one aspect of the invention, various conditions for using receive diversity are determined, including the conditions for decoding the quick paging channel (QPCH) and other similar channels. The QPCH and other similar channels may be transmitted at a fixed power level, with or without power control. The use of receive diversity is determined, most likely, for conditions that produces its beneficial features while improving battery power consumption

and preventing erroneous decoding of the received data, in particular QPCH data and other fixed power level channels.

[1021] One or more exemplary embodiments described herein are set forth in the context of a digital wireless data communication system. While use within this context is advantageous, different embodiments of the invention may be incorporated in different environments or configurations. In general, the various systems described herein may be formed using software-controlled processors, integrated circuits, or discrete logic. The data, instructions, commands, information, signals, symbols, and chips that may be referenced throughout the application are advantageously represented by voltages, currents, electromagnetic waves, magnetic fields or particles, optical fields or particles, or a combination thereof. In addition, the blocks shown in each block diagram may represent hardware or method steps.

[1022] FIG. 1 illustrates a general block diagram of a communication system 100 capable of operating in accordance with any of the code division multiple access (CDMA) communication system standards while incorporating various embodiments of the invention. Communication system 100 may be for communications of voice, data or both. Generally, communication system 100 includes a base station 101 that provides communication links between a number of mobile stations, such as mobile stations 102-104, and between the mobile stations 102-104 and a public switch telephone and data network 105. The mobile stations in FIG. 1 may be referred to as data access terminals (AT) and the base station as data access network (AN) without departing from the main scope and various advantages of the invention. Base station 101 may include a number of components, such as a base station controller and a base transceiver system. For simplicity, such components are not shown. Base station 101 may be in communication with other base stations, for example base station 160. A mobile switching center (not shown) may control various operating aspects of the communication system 100 and in relation to a back-haul 199 between network 105 and base stations 101 and 160.

[1023] Base station 101 communicates with each mobile station that is in its coverage area via a forward link signal transmitted from base station 101. The forward link signals targeted for mobile stations 102-104 may be summed to form a forward link signal 106. Each of the mobile stations 102-104 receiving

forward link signal 106 decodes the forward link signal 106 to extract the information that is targeted for its user. Base station 160 may also communicate with the mobile stations that are in its coverage area via a forward link signal transmitted from base station 160. Mobile stations 102-104 communicate with base stations 101 and 160 via corresponding reverse links. Each reverse link is maintained by a reverse link signal, such as reverse link signals 107-109 for respectively mobile stations 102-104. The reverse link signals 107-109, although may be targeted for one base station, may be received at other base stations.

[1024] Base stations 101 and 160 may be simultaneously communicating to a common mobile station. For example, mobile station 102 may be in close proximity of base stations 101 and 160, which can maintain communications with both base stations 101 and 160. On the forward link, base station 101 transmits on forward link signal 106, and base station 160 on the forward link signal 161. On the reverse link, mobile station 102 transmits on reverse link signal 107 to be received by both base stations 101 and 160. For transmitting a packet of data to mobile station 102, one of the base stations 101 and 160 may be selected to transmit the packet of data to mobile station 102. On the reverse link, both base stations 101 and 160 may attempt to decode the traffic data transmission from the mobile station 102.

[1025] The communication system 100 may also employ use of pilot channels for proper decoding of various channels. A pilot channel contains a series of predefined data. A receiver receives the pilot channel to determine various characteristics of the propagation channel. One of the characteristics may be a carrier to interference ratio (E_c/I_o) of the pilot channel. The pilot channel may be used to decode other received channels. The forward and reverse links may have pilot channels. On the forward link, a base station may transmit a pilot channel for all the mobile stations in its coverage area. On the reverse link, each mobile station may combine the reverse link channels with a pilot channel.

[1026] FIG. 2 illustrates a block diagram of a receiver 200 used for processing and demodulating the received CDMA signal in accordance with various aspects of the invention. Receiver 200 may be used for decoding the information on the reverse and forward links signals. Received (Rx) samples may be stored in RAM 204. Receive samples are generated by a radio

frequency/intermediate frequency (RF/IF) system 290 and an antenna system 292. The RF/IF system 290 and antenna system 292 may include one or more components for receiving multiple signals and RF/IF processing of the received signals for taking advantage of the receive diversity gain. For example, RF/IF system 290 may include the RF/IF systems 290A and 290B, each being considered a receiver chain. More than two receiver chains may also be used. Each element of antenna system 292 receives an RF signal, and passes the received RF signal to a receiver chain in the RF/IF system 290. RF/IF system 290 may be any conventional RF/IF receiver. The RF/IF system 290 may be a "zero" intermediate frequency (ZIF) receiver. The received RF signals are filtered, down-converted and digitized to form RX samples at base band frequencies. The samples are supplied to a demultiplexer (demux) 202. The output of demux 202 is supplied to a searcher unit 206 and finger elements 208. A control unit 210 is coupled thereto. A combiner 212 couples a decoder 214 to finger elements 208. Control unit 210 may be a microprocessor controlled by software, and may be located on the same integrated circuit or on a separate integrated circuit. The decoding function in decoder 214 may be in accordance with a turbo decoder or any other suitable decoding algorithms.

[1027] During operation, received samples are supplied to demux 202. Demux 202 supplies the samples to searcher unit 206 and finger elements 208. Control unit 210 configures finger elements 208 to perform demodulation and despreading of the received signal at different time offsets based on search results from searcher unit 206. Despreading of the channels is performed by multiplying the received samples with the complex conjugate of the PN sequence and assigned Walsh function at a single timing hypothesis and digitally filtering the resulting samples, often with an integrate and dump accumulator circuit (not shown). Such a technique is commonly known in the art. The searcher 206 may decode the pilot channel to determine the channel condition, such as determining E_c/I_o . If the E_c/I_o of the pilot channel of the transmitting source is above a threshold, the control system 210 may decide to assign finger elements 208 to process other received channels from the same source. In the mobile station, various lists of base stations with adequate pilot channel E_c/I_o are kept. The lists may include an active list of base stations, a candidate list of base stations, a neighboring list of base stations and a

remaining list of base stations. The lists of the base stations may be organized in accordance with the received E_c/I_o level. The base stations in the active list have the strongest received E_c/I_o .

[1028] In accordance with various aspects of the invention, control system 210 controls the number of receiver chains used for processing the received channels based on the received pilot channel condition. Control system 210 controls the number of receiver chains used in the RF/IF system 290 based on the received pilot channel condition. The pilot channel condition may be based on the E_c/I_o of the pilot channel. If the E_c/I_o of the received pilot channel is strong, control system 210 reduces the number of receiver chains used in RF/IF system 290 for processing the multiple received signals. If the E_c/I_o of the received pilot channel is weak, control system 210 increases the number of receiver chains in RF/IF system 290 for processing the multiple received signals. Therefore, receiver 200 operates its receive diversity based on the channel condition of a received pilot channel. The scale of the receive diversity, relating to the number of receiver chains, is based on the channel condition of the pilot channel.

[1029] For receive diversity, multiple received signals may be combined in accordance with any of the commonly known combining processes, such as maximal-ratio combining (MRC) and minimum mean-squared error (MMSE). Temporal combining, spatial combining, or a combination of both, may be used for the combining process. In temporal combining, the signals received through different propagation paths are combined. In the spatial combining, the signals received at different antennas and propagated through the same path are combined. In receiver 200, the results of the demodulation are combined in accordance with the receive diversity process, and passed the combined result to decoder 214. Decoder 214 decodes the data and outputs the decoded data. Receiver 200 may be used in a receiver portion of base stations 101 and 160 for processing the received reverse link signals from the mobile stations, and in a receiver portion of any of the mobile stations for processing the received forward link signals.

[1030] FIG. 3 illustrates a block diagram of a transmitter 300 for transmitting the reverse and forward link signals. The channel data for transmission are input to a modulator 301 for modulation. The modulation may be according to any of

the commonly known modulation techniques such as QAM, PSK or BPSK. The data is encoded at a data rate in modulator 301. The data rate may be selected by a data rate and power level selector 303. The data rate selection may be based on feedback information received from a receiving destination. The receiving destination may be a mobile station or a base station. The feedback information may include the maximum allowed data rate. The maximum allowed data rate may be determined in accordance with various commonly known algorithms. The maximum allowed data rate very often is based on the channel condition, among other considered factors. The data rate and power level selector 303 accordingly selects the data rate in modulator 301. The output of modulator 301 passes through a signal spreading operation and amplified in a block 302 for transmission from an antenna 304. The data rate and power level selector 303 also selects a power level for the amplification level of the transmitted signal in accordance with the feedback information. The combination of the selected data rate and the power level allows proper decoding of the transmitted data at the receiving destination. A pilot signal is also generated in a block 307. The pilot signal is amplified to an appropriate level in block 307. The pilot signal power level may be in accordance with the channel condition at the receiving destination. The pilot signal is combined with the channel signal in a combiner 308. The combined signal may be amplified in an amplifier 309 and transmitted from antenna 304. The antenna 304 may be in any number of combinations including antenna arrays and multiple input multiple output configurations.

[1031] FIG. 4 depicts a general block diagram of a transceiver system 400 for incorporating receiver 200 and transmitter 300 for maintaining a communication link with a destination. The transceiver 400 may be incorporated in a mobile station or a base station. A processor 401 may be coupled to receiver 200 and transmitter 300 to process the received and transmitted data. Various aspects of the receiver 200 and transmitter 300 may be common, even though receiver 200 and transmitter 300 are shown separately. In one aspect, receiver 200 and transmitter 300 may share a common local oscillator and a common antenna system for RF/IF receiving and transmitting.

[1032] On the transmitting side, transmit data processing block 403 prepares the data for transmission on a transmit channel. Transmitter 300 receives the data

for transmission on input 405, and transmits the data from an antenna system. On the receiving side, after the received data are decoded, the decoded data are received at processor 400 at an input 404. Received data are processed in received data processing block 402 in processor 401. Various operations of processor 401 may be integrated in a single or multiple processing units. The transceiver 400 may be connected to another device. The transceiver 400 may be an integral part of the device. The device may be a computer or may operate similar to a computer. The device may be connected to a data network, such as Internet. In case of incorporating the transceiver 400 in a base station, the base station through several connections may be connected to a network, such as Internet.

[1033] Fig. 5 depicts a flow chart 500 for implementing one or more aspects of the invention. Various steps in flow chart 500 may be implemented by control system 210 or processor 401 or a combination of both. At step 501, the E_c/I_o of a pilot channel is determined. The pilot channel may be from a base station in the active list of the mobile station. At step 502, the determined E_c/I_o is compared to a receive diversity threshold. If the determined E_c/I_o meets the receive diversity threshold, at step 503, the receive diversity may be turned off or scaled back. When the E_c/I_o meets the receive diversity threshold, the channel condition is most likely very favorable, and thus there is no need for receive diversity or a large scale receive diversity. The number of receiver chains in receiver 200 may be more than two, for example four receiver chains may be incorporated. In such a case, when scaling back the receiver diversity, the number of receiver chains used in the receive diversity may be reduced from four to three or two or from three to two. When the receive diversity is turned off, only one receiver chain may be used. If the determined E_c/I_o does not meet the receive diversity threshold, at step 504, the receive diversity may be turned on or increased in scale. When the E_c/I_o does not meet the receive diversity threshold, the channel condition is most likely not very good, thus producing a favorable condition for using or increasing the scale of receive diversity. In such a case, when increasing the scale of the receiver diversity, the number of receiver chains used in the receive diversity may be increased to three or four. When the receive diversity is turned on, at least two receiver chains may be used.

[1034] FIG. 6 illustrates one or more processes for determining whether E_c/I_o of the pilot channel meets the receive diversity threshold in accordance with various aspects of the invention. The determined E_c/I_o is compared to an upper receive diversity threshold 601 and a lower receive diversity threshold 602. The upper threshold 601 is larger than the lower threshold 602. The difference between the upper and lower thresholds 601 and 602 is a delta threshold 605. At a time 603, when the E_c/I_o moves above the upper threshold 601, the E_c/I_o meets the receive diversity threshold of step 502. At time 604, when the E_c/I_o moves below the lower threshold 602, the E_c/I_o does not meet the receive diversity threshold of step 502.

[1035] The channel condition may change at all times. The E_c/I_o may move above or below the thresholds 601 and 602 depending on the channel condition. The channel condition in a fast moving environment may change far more rapidly than a low moving channel condition. For example, if the mobile station is in a car traveling on a highway, the channel condition may be changing more rapidly than a mobile station on a pedestrian. In accordance with various aspects of the invention, the delta threshold 605 may change based on how fast the channel condition is changing. In a fast channel condition, corresponding to a condition that E_c/I_o changes very rapidly, the delta threshold 605 may be increased to prevent excessive number of changes in the receive diversity. In a slow channel condition, corresponding to a condition that E_c/I_o changes very slowly, the delta threshold 605 may be decreased to allow a change in the receive diversity.

[1036] Referring to Fig. 7, a flow chart 700 depicts various steps for processing QPCH in accordance with various aspects of the invention. At step 701, the E_c/I_o of a pilot channel received at a mobile station is determined. The pilot channel may be originated from the same source that originated the QPCH. At step 702, the mobile station determines whether receive diversity is necessary based on the determined pilot channel E_c/I_o . The controller 210 or processor 401 or both may be used to decide whether to use no diversity or multiple receiver chains receive diversity. Various steps described in relation to flow chart 500 and an illustration of diagram 600 may be used for implementing step 702.

[1037] The message on the QPCH is a single bit message, and transmitted twice per each transmitted time slot. Therefore, the QPCH carries a single bit message, the first and second bits are repetitions of the same single bit message. One ordinary skilled in the art may appreciate that the first bit may be referred to as the first transmission of QPCH bit and the second bit as the second transmission of the QPCH bit. After determining the scale of the receive diversity at step 702, whether to use one or multiple receiver chains and to what scale, the first bit of the QPCH is determined. If the first bit is a "zero", the controller 210 or processor 401 may switch the mobile station to a sleep mode at step 704. If the first bit is a "one" or an erasure, the second bit of the QPCH is determined at step 705. An erasure may be determined when the received signal energy is not high enough to determine with confidence whether a "one" or a "zero" was transmitted. If the second bit is a "zero", the mobile station is switched to a sleep mode at step 704. If the second bit is a "one" or an erasure, the mobile station directs its resources to receive an associated paging channel at step 706. Various steps of processing a QPCH are improved by determining the need for diversity before processing the data bits in QPCH. If the channel condition indicated by the E_c/I_o is poor, receive diversity is used, which in turn, improves the probability of decoding the first and second bits more accurately.

[1038] Various steps for processing the QPCH is, further, improved by implementing various steps of flow chart 800 depicted in FIG. 8. At step 801, the first bit of the QPCH is determined. If a "zero" is detected, the mobile station is switched to a sleep mode at step 802. If a "one" or an erasure is detected, at step 803, the mobile station determines whether receive diversity is necessary based on a determined pilot channel E_c/I_o . The controller 210 or processor 401 or both may be used to decide whether to use no diversity or multiple receiver chains receive diversity. Various steps described in relation to flow charts 500 and 600 may be used for implementing step 803. At step 804, the second bit of QPCH is determined. The process of determining the second bit at step 804 may include use of receive diversity. Therefore, depending on the channel condition, the probability of detecting a correct second bit is improved. If the second bit of QPCH is a "one" or an erasure, the mobile station is directed to process an associated paging channel at step 805.

[1039] Various steps for processings the QPCH and other channels are, further, improved by implementing various steps of flow chart 900 depicted in FIG. 9. At step 901, the first bit of the QPCH received at the mobile station is determined. If a "zero" is detected, the mobile station is switched to a sleep mode at step 902. If a "one" or an erasure is detected, at step 903, the second bit of QPCH received at the mobile station is determined. If the second bit is a "1", at step 904, the mobile station is directed to receive other channels such as the paging channel. If an erasure is detected, at step 905, the mobile station determines whether receive diversity is necessary based on a determined pilot channel E_c/I_0 . The controller 210 or processor 401 or both may be used to decide whether to use no diversity or multiple receiver chains receive diversity. Various steps described in relation to flow chart 500 and illustrated for diagram 600 may be used for implementing step 905. After determining the level of diversity at step 905, the mobile station is directed to receive other channels such as the paging channel. The process of receiving other channels at step 904 may include use of receive diversity. Therefore, depending on the channel condition, the probability of correctly receiving other channels is improved. One ordinary skilled in the art may appreciate that receive diversity may be necessary when an erasure is detected. An erasure may be determined when the received signal energy is not high enough to determine with confidence whether a "one" or a "zero" was transmitted. The scale of diversity may be determined based on the pilot channel E_c/I_0 as determined at step 905.

[1040] Various steps for processings the QPCH and other channels are, further, improved by implementing various steps of flow chart 1000 depicted in FIG. 10. At step 1001, the first bit of the QPCH received at the mobile station is determined. If a "zero" is detected, the mobile station is switched to a sleep mode at step 1002. If the first bit is detected as a "one", at step 1003, the second bit of QPCH received at the mobile station is determined. If the first bit is detected as an erasure, at step 1005, the mobile station determines whether receive diversity is necessary based on a determined pilot channel E_c/I_0 . At this point, the process moves to step 1003 to determine the second received bit of the QPCH. If the second bit is detected as a "zero", the process moves to step 1002 to switch the mobile station to a sleep mode. If the second bit is a "one", at step 1004, the mobile station is directed to receive other channels

such as the paging channel. If the second bit is detected as an erasure, at step 1006, the mobile station determines whether receive diversity is necessary based on a determined pilot channel E_c/I_o . The process flow moves to step 1004 to direct the mobile station resources to receive a paging channel. The controller 210 or processor 401 or both may be used to decide whether to use no diversity or multiple receiver chains receive diversity. Various steps described in relation to flow chart 500 and illustrated for diagram 600 may be used for implementing steps 1005 and 1006. The process of determining the second bit at step 1003 and receiving other channels at step 1004 may include use of receive diversity. Therefore, depending on the channel condition, the probability of correctly processing the received second bit and other channels are improved. One ordinary skilled in the art may appreciate that receive diversity may be necessary when an erasure is detected. The processes as illustrated in relation to FIGs. 8, 9 and 10 may be include one or more additional steps for determining whether diversity is necessary, based on the pilot channel E_c/I_o , before processing the first bit of the QPCH. Such steps are shown in FIG. 7 at steps 701 and 702.

[1041] Generally, minimum amount of battery power may be desirable to use for processing QPCH. Use of receive diversity increases the battery power consumption. Therefore, the decision to make use of receive diversity is critical in minimizing the amount of battery power used for processing QPCH. Various aspects of the invention as described are suitable for accomplishing minimum consumption of battery power while improving the reliability of the determining the QPCH data bits and decoding other channels. Improving reliability of the bit detection also improves battery life.

[1042] The determination to use diversity and to what scale may also be based on other factors such as frame error rate. Moreover, the parameter E_c/I_o is an indication of the carrier strength over interference. Other similarly indicating parameters may also be used for determining the level of diversity. For example, the factor " E_c " may be used instead of E_c/I_o without deviating from the spirit of invention. Those of skill in the art would further appreciate that the various illustrative logical blocks, modules, circuits, and algorithm steps described in connection with the embodiments disclosed herein may be implemented as electronic hardware, computer software, or combinations of

both. To clearly illustrate this interchangeability of hardware and software, various illustrative components, blocks, modules, circuits, and steps have been described above generally in terms of their functionality. Whether such functionality is implemented as hardware or software depends upon the particular application and design constraints imposed on the overall system. Skilled artisans may implement the described functionality in varying ways for each particular application, but such implementation decisions should not be interpreted as causing a departure from the scope of the present invention.

[1043] The various illustrative logical blocks, modules, and circuits described in connection with the embodiments disclosed herein may be implemented or performed with a general purpose processor, a digital signal processor (DSP), an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC), a field programmable gate array (FPGA) or other programmable logic device, discrete gate or transistor logic, discrete hardware components, or any combination thereof designed to perform the functions described herein. A general purpose processor may be a microprocessor, but in the alternative, the processor may be any conventional processor, controller, microcontroller, or state machine. A processor may also be implemented as a combination of computing devices, e.g., a combination of a DSP and a microprocessor, a plurality of microprocessors, one or more microprocessors in conjunction with a DSP core, or any other such configuration.

[1044] The steps of a method or algorithm described in connection with the embodiments disclosed herein may be embodied directly in hardware, in a software module executed by a processor, or in a combination. A software module may reside in RAM memory, flash memory, ROM memory, EPROM memory, EEPROM memory, registers, hard disk, a removable disk, a CD-ROM, or any other form of storage medium known in the art. An exemplary storage medium is coupled to the processor such that the processor can read information from, and write information to, the storage medium. In the alternative, the storage medium may be integral to the processor. The processor and the storage medium may reside in an ASIC. The ASIC may reside in a user terminal. In the alternative, the processor and the storage medium may reside as discrete components in a user terminal.

[1045] The previous description of the preferred embodiments is provided to enable any person skilled in the art to make or use the present invention. The various modifications to these embodiments will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art, and the generic principles defined herein may be applied to other embodiments without the use of the inventive faculty. Thus, the present invention is not intended to be limited to the embodiments shown herein but is to be accorded the widest scope consistent with the principles and novel features disclosed herein.

[1046] What is claimed is: